

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

**January 17, 2002
State Capitol
Hearing Room #444
11th and L Street entrance
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Agenda Item 1 -- Call to Order.

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Reiner at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 2 -- Roll Call.

- Present were Commissioners Kim Belshé, Louis Vismara, Karen Hill-Scott, Sandra Gutierrez, and Chairman Reiner. Ex-Officio member Theresa Garcia joined the meeting in progress, and Ex-Officio member Glen Rosselli was absent.

Agenda Item 3 -- Approval of Minutes, December 11, 2001 State Commission Meeting.

Action by Commission: Chairman Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez to approve the December 11th, 2001 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 -- Chairman's Report

- Chairman Reiner spoke briefly about the UCLA sponsored international conference on early childhood systems. There will be a report issued and made available to those who want to read it.
- Chairman Reiner reported that Elizabeth Rice Grossman has been appointed by the Senate Rules Committee to serve on the California Children and Families Commission. Ms. Grossman replaces Susan Lacey, whose term expired in December 2001. Ms. Grossman has an interest and significant background in working with at-risk youth, and children with disabilities and other special needs. She will be attending the next meeting.
- Joe Munso reported the Fiscal Year 2002-03 State Budget proposed by the Governor does not include using Proposition 10 funds for other purposes. The budget includes actions to balance a large deficit. It contains \$5.2 billion in expenditure reductions and deferrals of programs over a two-year period. It

includes funding shifts from special funds amounting to approximately \$600 million. It has approximately \$5.6 billion in various financial strategies, including the securitization of the tobacco settlement funds, which amounts to \$2.4 billion to be paid off over 20 or more years. Some of the key changes that affect the Commission include the child care reform proposal. Mr. Munso outlined other changes in the State Budget, including a proposal to eliminate the Child Development Advisory Committee (CDPAC) effective January 2003.

- Chairman Reiner noted that the concept of early child care is becoming a more prominent feature on the radar screens of those that can most readily effect change. The Chairman stated that he has been invited to speak at an upcoming legislative hearing on what the federal government's role should be in helping bring early childhood care into our system.
- Commissioner Vismara stated that autism has become the #1 cause of new registrations in the Department of Developmental Services.

Public Comment: Marge Deichman, representing the Child Health Disability Program, spoke on the Governor's proposal to reduce funding for the program. Ms. Deichman explained the goals of the CHDP and how the Governor's proposal to reduce funding for the program will impede the progress of achieving these goals.

Patricia Siegel, Executive Director, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, expressed concerns about the child care reform proposal. Ms. Siegel urged the Commission to look at the ramifications of the proposed changes very closely.

Commissioner Vismara suggested that staff work with the above speakers to address these budgetary issues.

Agenda Item 5 -- Executive Director's Report

- Jane Henderson reported that a review panel will be convened at the end of January to score the submitted Evaluation RFPs. The contract is anticipated to be in place by March.
- The TA RFP was released on January 9th. There were almost 200 organizations on the mailing list. There will be a pre-bidders conference on January 29th to facilitate partnerships between applying organizations, as it seems unlikely that a single organization could provide all of the deliverables. Contract funding requests will be before the Commission in April.

- The first round of CBO program RFPs were issued for the Bay Area and Sacramento regions. Round 2 release will occur in March.
- There will be a Commission retreat on the 14th and 15th of February in Los Angeles.
- The annual statewide conference of county commissions will take place March 21st and 22nd in San Diego. There will be no Commission meeting that month. There is a high degree of interest in the conference. There will be a pre-conference set of workshops on March 20th.
- There will be a symposium on school readiness on February 28th. There will be a white paper produced from the symposium.
- The goal of the Commission's Child Care Accreditation Project is to accredit approximately 900 family child care homes and 370 childcare centers. Outreach has been extensive. Approximately 1300 child care providers and 475 centers have expressed an interest in participating.
- Commissioner Vismara presented an update on the Sonoma State Project. The five focus areas identified from the regional forum included, 1) a public awareness campaign, 2) early identification screening and assessment, 3) early childhood inclusion resource teams, 4) family resource empowerment center and 5) statewide leadership and resource network. The final report will be presented to the Commission in February.

Agenda Item 6 -- California Children and Families Association Report

- Pat Wheatley announced the newly elected officers for the Association. Brenda Blasingame is the Vice President. Steve Ladd is the Secretary-Treasurer. Kris Perry is the Urban Caucus Chairperson. Paul Crissy is the Suburban Caucus Chairperson. Anne Molgaard is the Rural Caucus Chairperson. Mark Friedman is the Media Committee Chairperson. Gloria Wyeth is the Evaluation Committee Chairperson. Gloria Bryngelson is the Technical Assistance Committee Chairperson. Evelyn Martinez is the Program and Planning Committee Chairperson. Mike Ruane is the Legislative and Policy Committee Chairperson. Pat Wheatley is the President of the Association.
- The Association is working on a presentation for the Commission on funding recommendations to be presented during the Commission's February meeting.
- The TA service center has been reviewed and evaluated in depth by an outside evaluator.

- The Americorp project is on schedule.
- The Association's policy platform is currently being developed.
- The Commissioners are invited to attend a dinner meeting the evening before the statewide conference, March 20, in San Diego.

Discussion: Commissioner Vismara stated that Sacramento County has used Americorp resources in the prevention of child abuse. Sheila Anderson is the Executive Director. Commissioner Vismara stated that the Governor's Office has a Department of Volunteerism. The Association is working with these entities.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked for details on the February conference on diversity. Vonnie Madagan informed the Commission that the conference will include more than 3 counties and will cover pragmatic issues related to diversity in terms of school readiness.

Agenda Item 7 – Policy Panel on Informal Child Care

- Jane Henderson introduced the panelists.
- The CCFC's purposes for convening an Informal Providers' Panel are two-fold: To discuss successful outreach and education strategies to support high quality informal care and, consequently, children's School Readiness, and to focus on the specific role that CCFC can have in terms of future funding initiatives and policy directions in the informal provider arena to support School Readiness.
- Assuming that the CCFC has limited resources, what are the **two most important things you would fund?** Please provide a rationale for the recommendations and consider the following in your decision making process: 1) Where are the gaps? What program pieces are missing but necessary in order for change to occur? 2) Where might CCFC focus its financial resources to address outstanding needs? Please provide **specific** solutions or recommendations (with a focus on systemic change and in the range of \$5-10 million annually) that the CCFC might be in the position to pursue as part of its FY 2002/03 budget. What kinds of activities would be inappropriate or should be avoided?
- Patricia Siegel, Director of the California Resource and Referral Network, presented opening remarks on what is known about informal care in California. The following is an outline of Ms. Siegel's presentation.

- Recommendations
 - Support more research
 - Quantitative
 - Qualitative
 - Support efforts to improve the quality of existing infrastructure
 - Media campaign
- Definitions
 - License exempt care: Care for children either in the child's home or in the provider's home that is provided legally without a license from the state.
 - Informal care
 - Relative care
 - Kith and kin care
 - Babysitting
- Who uses this type of care?
 - Families in rural areas
 - Hispanic families
 - Mothers who work
 - Larger families
 - Low income mothers
- Use of subsidies
 - Child's age
 - Special needs
 - Parental values
 - Views of quality
- Constraints and Barriers
 - Affordability
 - Accessibility
 - Non-traditional hours
 - Flexible arrangements
- Quality
 - Trust line program
 - 10% disqualified because of criminal activity
 - Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles excluded
 - Debate of the definition of quality
 - Relatives interact under less structure and less with the child
- Negatives
 - If children in informal settings are less likely to engage in activities that promote literacy and learning, then support literacy and learning materials.
 - If children are less likely to use educational tools and materials, then provide resources.
 - If children are gaining more educational input from the television than

from the provider, then support provider trainings that focus on provider initiated activities and interaction.

- Erindera Abel, Director of Policy and Development, Chicano Federation of San Diego County, made a presentation to the Commission. An outline of her presentation follows.
 - Chicano Federation Mission
 - Recommendations
 - Create a force for change for ethnically diverse communities
 - Change the perception of cultural barriers
 - Not the children or families, but the system in place
 - Adopt culturally competent standards developed by the Chicano Federation
 - Board of directors and management staff are ethnically and linguistically representative of the community they serve.
 - Agency's physical location is in the community it serves
 - Staffing at all levels represents the community serves
 - Top level managers reflect the makeup of the community
 - Are agency leaders visible and involved in the community they serve?
 - Is the staff a bicultural section of the community?
 - Is there a history of the agency's intrinsic understanding of the culture?
 - Recruitment strategies are offered in the primary language of the community served and are culturally appropriate.
 - The program and support services are offered in the community's primary language
 - Materials are written in the community's primary language and are culturally appropriate.
 - Outside presenters speak the primary language of the students.
 - Cultural factors are integrated into the methodology and content of the program design and support services.
 - The agency is engaged in an ongoing cultural competence self assessment.
 - Program design
 - Culturally based and linguistically appropriate
 - Implemented by community based organizations
 - Designed to go to the informal provider and not the other way around
 - Should include incentives for the informal provider
 - Methodologies based on developing relationships, building trust, and a support system considering all family dynamics and needs

- Summary
 - Go to the participants, don't wait for them to come to you.
 - Bring all stakeholders to the table.
 - Fund organizations that are culturally competent
 - Fund community based organizations that are part of the community
 - Fund programs that go to the provider
 - Documents on the topic
 - Child Care by Kith and Kin: Supporting families, friends and neighbors caring for children
 - Informal Child Care Highlights from Recent Research
- Donna Gay, Resource and Referral Manager, Child Care Coordinating Council in San Mateo County, made a presentation. An outline of that presentation follows:
 - Exempt Provider Training Project
 - Trained 800 providers
 - Many go on to be licensed
 - Recommendations
 - Provide funding to have a person within the community that can reach the exempt providers
 - Get involved in the local schools
 - Recruitment people speak the language
 - Examine the existing infrastructure
 - Develop curriculum/activity cards that focus on things around the home
 - Distribute the videos created by the Commission to caregivers
- Judy Ishiura, UC Davis Extension, Family Child Care At Its Best, made a presentation. An outline of that presentation follows:
 - Recommendations
 - Provide a continuum of training for informal providers
 - Promotes the transfer of learning
 - Home visiting
 - Over a course of time with continuity
 - Increase the pool of qualified trainers to work with providers
 - Consider providers that speak languages other than English and Spanish
 - Consider the adults who have had difficult experiences in school and the difficulty they may experience in preparing young children for the positive experience of education.
 - Provide a positive training experience
 - Link existing resources
 - San Diego County West Ed and UC Davis

- Conduct Research
 - Needs of informal providers
- Janet Shaw, Program Supervisor, Community Connection for Child Care, Kern County Office of Superintendent of Schools, made a presentation. An outline of that presentation follows:
 - Training Services described
 - Recommendations
 - Use existing resources to develop a resource manual to instruct other communities on how to develop there own services
 - Fund programs that offer distance learning opportunities
 - Child Care Productions
 - Training through television
 - Testing
- Delores Terrazas, City Child Care Administrator, San Francisco City and County, made a presentation. An outline of that presentation follows:
 - Recommendations
 - Equitable partnerships with community based organizations from inception
 - Pilot radio talk show
 - Non-threatening
 - Wide reaching
 - Home visiting model

Discussion: Chairman Reiner thanked all of the panelists.

Commissioner Gutierrez expressed concerns about identifying the most effective outreach strategies for the non-subsidized providers. Delores Terrazas informed the Commission that the City of San Francisco plans to work with those on the eligibility list to find out what families on the wait list are currently doing for care. Panelists offered suggestions such as flyers and community presentations as outreach strategies.

Commissioner Hill-Scott restated the panelists' recommendations: work with CBOs, cultural competence, home visits, appealing content, unique content, distance learning and radio. Commissioner Hill-Scott asked to what extent the panelists feel that the lending libraries are effective and appropriate. The panelists' responses included using toys as incentives for training, using lending libraries as links to the library system in general, and training on the 'toys' available already in the home.

Commissioner Vismara highlighted the needs of children with disabilities and other special needs and urged the panelists to contact him with any ideas and concerns they may have in this area.

Commissioner Belshé thanked the panelists for their presentation. Commissioner Belshé asked how much money is already invested in these types of services already, where that money is coming from, and whether there is an assessment of what the county Proposition 10 commissions are doing. The panel informed the Commission that a survey is now being completed at the child care resource and referral network that asks them to identify the work they are doing, how much it costs and where the funding is coming from. Commissioner Hill-Scott asked what is the reasonable ratio of trainer-to-provider in a home visitation model? The panelists informed the Commission that this would be very labor intensive. The ratios offered were 1 trainer to 5 care givers and 1 to 12 with frequencies varying from once per week to once every 3 weeks. This answer could only be arrived at accurately through research. Panelists informed the Commission that is important that home visitors must be very well trained in multiple disciplines in order to address effectively any one of the needs of the family.

Commissioner Hill-Scott asked how much early identification of disabilities does this create an opportunity for, and how much child abuse reporting does this type of activity bring to light. The panelists informed the Commission that there are other agencies involved with these families so that trainers did not have to address these types of issues specifically.

Commissioner Belshé requested a better snap shot of what is currently available in terms of these types of services. This Commission is attempting to fill in the gaps in these services with the limited funds available. Commissioner Belshé asked the panel to narrow down its recommendations on what the Commission should fund. The panel recommendations included supporting the Promotora model, an incremental approach that includes the identification of what is already available and work of the Child Development Division. The materials must be thoroughly thought out and made very attractive to the community. The models should be locally driven.

Commissioner Vismara believes that whatever is done here today must be linked with strategies and approaches that will also alter the community.

Jane Henderson summarized the panelists' recommendations and suggested that much of these could be met through matching grants at the county commission level. Ms. Henderson asked for recommendations on which statewide organizations the Commission could partner with to train providers.

Commissioner Gutierrez suggested a new popular education approach to training informal child care providers that has community input.

Commissioner Vismara asked Jane Henderson to include using new technology to address the issue of training.

Public Comment: Rafael Lopez, Santa Cruz County CFC, expressed concerns about attempts to formalize informal care. Mr. Lopez emphasized a grassroots approach. Mini grants would be an excellent approach. Mini grants purchase good will in the local communities.

Karen Blinstrub, Santa Clara County CFC, spoke in support of the comments of Mr. Lopez. The local unlicensed providers are approaching the Santa Clara County CFC for assistance.

Gene Lucas, Chico, made the following points. The Commission has already produced a product for early child care education and that is the Kit for New Parents. The problem is it has not been widely distributed. Education of the care giver is of utmost importance. Research needs to be developed in the area of phonemic awareness in both English and Spanish.

Ann Brussard asked the Commission to consider more strongly advocating for children birth to 5 in the state budget process.

Arnold Torrez, California Hispanic Health Care Association, made the following comments. The literature is overwhelming for people that have very low literacy levels. Cultural and Linguistic competency is of the utmost importance. It is always important to recognize the level of literacy of the target population. There is a disconnect between CBOs and some local Commissions. If you support the Promotora concept, realize that you don't have the infrastructure to provide what this program requests.

Marsha Sherman, California Child Care Health Program, suggested examining the statewide programs and look for links between the statewide programs and CBOs.

Erica Grubb, California Food Policy Advocates, presented copies of her comments to the Commission. Ms. Grubb discussed expansion of participation of informal care providers in the child and adult care food program. Ms. Grubb outlined some of the statistics presented in her written comments.

Commissioner Belshé asked for information on the people that go to sites for the monitoring visits. Ms. Grubb informed the Commission that the people generally have nutrition backgrounds and language backgrounds as well.

Commission Gutierrez asked if this offers an opportunity to get other information into the homes. Ms. Grubb informed the Commission that it does provide that opportunity through partnerships.

Joe Munso asked if the Federal funds were open ended. Ms. Grubb informed the Commission that it is an entitlement program.

Commissioner Hill-Scott expressed concerns over the fact that the program is not funded to support itself (administrative costs). Ms. Grubb informed the Commission that supplemental programs are a top priority for 2003.

Agenda Item 8 – Closed Session (held during lunch)

Agenda Item 9 – Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000/2001

Joe Munso presented this action item. The annual report highlights the CCFC business plan components, the direction and goals of the Commission, the investments to date and partnerships with the county commissions. It provides a fiscal synopsis of the State Commission that ties in with what is in the Governor's budget. It presents future direction of the Commission. The County data are summarized to date. This is the first attempt to capture strategies and outcomes. The annual report is due to the Governor and Legislature by January 31, 2002, in accordance with statute.

Discussion: Commissioner Vismara asked if the Sonoma State recommendations will be included, as the report is a recap of activities from fiscal year 2000-2001. Joe Munso informed the Commission that it will not be included. Commissioner Vismara suggested including the recommendations as an appendix.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if the equity principles are in the report. Joe Munso informed the Commission that they were not included. Commissioner Vismara suggested their inclusion.

Commissioner Belshé asked if the \$250 million in leveraged funds assumes the \$200 million county match for the school readiness initiative. The balance is federal Medicaid money for the Kit for New Parents and matching funds for Retention incentive.

Action by Commission: Chairman Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Vismara to approve this item. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – Child Development Permit Project

- Emily Nahat presented this Action Item.
- This is an action item to redirect \$442,000 from the unallocated balance of funding of the Matching Funds for Retention Incentives (MFFRI) pilot project to fund the Child Development Permit Project. The MFFRI project has generated a large increase in permit application activity and several County Children and Families Commissions (County Commissions) have requested additional support for the Child Development Permit Project. This project will pay the Child Development Permit application and fingerprint processing fees for approximately 3,000 eligible early care and education professionals. Priority will be given to individuals participating in retention incentive programs supported by the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC) and to those applying for the following permits: Master Teacher, Site Supervisor and Program Director.

Discussion: Commissioner Belshé asked for elaboration on the urgency of this project. Ms. Nahat informed the Commission that staff wants to be able to complete a contract to start to be able to get money to providers as soon as possible. The pilot project ends June 30th, 2003. Commissioner Belshé asked for elaboration on evidence of it being a barrier to participation. Linda Butterfield, Director, Child Development Training Consortium, informed the Commission that the consortium is funded by the Stipend for Permit Project. Through last year the consortium was able to pay for all six levels on the child development permit matrix. Funding ran out 6 weeks before the end of the program year. In the 6 week interim the consortium received 500 permit applications for which there was no funding. The state asked, as a result, that the consortium only pay for the first three levels of the matrix. Requests for permits have greatly increased.

Commissioner Vismara asked if the Commission is being asked to fund a credentialing process that was previously funded. Jane Henderson informed the Commission that its incentive program has increased the

demand. The funding amount has not changed, only the demand.

Commissioner Vismara asked for assurance that supplementation is not an issue. Joe Munso assured the Commission that it was not an issue.

Commissioner Belshé asked how it was known that the Commission's incentives resulted in the increased demand. Numbers were presented to support that assertion.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if the providers were located in high need areas. The Commission was informed that the only criteria were in state residency and permit eligibility.

Commissioner Vismara asked when more evaluation material would be made available. The Commission was informed that more information would be made available in the fall.

Public Comment: Tammy Moss, Support Services Analyst, Merced County CFC, spoke in support of the CARES program, and urged the Commission to open that matching fund program for a final round of funding to county commissions that did not apply previously.

Emily Nahat stated that other counties have made similar requests. The data from these counties could not be considered in the statewide evaluation.

Muriel Smith, Merced County, requested a final round of funding for her county.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked how much it would cost to fund the requests of these counties. The cost varies with county size.

Commissioner Belshé suggested that this topic be discussed at the retreat. Jane Henderson stated that this was viewed as funding that had already been approved.

Commissioner Vismara asked for the annual salary for a master teacher's annual income. Ms. Henderson stated that the information is in Ed Week.

Commissioner Gutierrez requested more information on income guidelines before voting.

Action by Commission: Commissioner Belshé moved, seconded by Chairman Reiner to approve the above item. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 – School Readiness Component of the Legislature’s Master Plan for Education

- Judy Stucki presented this discussion item. The final report will be submitted in February. Governance is the largest remaining issue. The group largely agrees on a state structure education department that would create a division of Early Childhood Development. There is disagreement on the flow of monies between the county and the local levels. We have decided to reconvene one last time the governance and finance subgroup to finalize some previously discussed options. The school readiness report will be presented to the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan the week of March 4th. A draft of the Master Plan will be available May 1st for circulation. Regional hearings will be held to take public comment on the plan in May and June. Changes based on that public comment will be made in July. The final Master Plan for Education will be presented to the Legislature for adoption in August. Senator Alpert continues to be actively involved in the process.

Patricia Skelton presented information on the contract for research to support the work being done by the Master Plan. A very brief written synopsis was presented to the Commission.

Discussion: Commissioner Hill-Scott offered thanks to the members of the working group.

Chairman Reiner asked Commissioner Hill-Scott if she felt confident that there would be a seamless report between early education and K-12. Commissioner Hill-Scott replied that it was not up to the Commission. The School Readiness working group’s report is being developed with that intention.

Public Comment: Patty Siegel, Director of the California Resource and Referral Network, expressed concern over the lack of public involvement in the governance and finance components of this item. Commissioner Hill-Scott noted that all of the meetings discussing these items have been publicly noticed and open to the public.

Chairman Reiner spoke briefly on the spirit of cooperation and its importance in such a monumental undertaking.

Agenda 12 – Update on School Readiness Initiative

- Roberta Peck presented this discussion item. Ms. Peck reported 100% participation in the Initiative. Nineteen county commissions have applied for phase 1B of the initiative. Staff is now moving forward with the second review of the applications. Outreach has included teleconferences and a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) link on the website. Other materials will also be made available on the website. Staff is involved in the Americorps Vista Senior Corps partnership. A large RFP has been released for TA that includes strong information for school readiness. There is an interim arrangement with UCLA for nine months.

Discussion: Commissioner Belshé asked if there was a way of determining how many child care slots might be created through the work that the counties intend to undertake. Ms. Peck informed the Commission that staff requested information on how many children are receiving services, how many services are new, and how many services are augmentations of existing services. Jane Henderson stated that Orange County is interested in this information. There is a survey asking county commissions about levels of funding for child care and development. There was no question about increased capacity. Overall the report found \$60M for the last fiscal year for child care and development activities.

Pat Wheatley stated that Santa Barbara County has done an assessment of what is known to be underserved communities. The assessment has impacted the planning around the initiatives in that county.

Public Comment: Muriel Smith, Merced County, stated that her commission will be working with the school districts to add child care slots.

Joyce Hansen, Orange County CFC, offered words of thanks for the work of the Commission in this area. Orange County is trying to link its school readiness program to every other program being funded by the commission.

Commissioner Vismara asked if the UC Irvine research funded earlier by the Orange County Commission would be linked to this initiative. Ms. Hansen informed the Commission that attempts to link to some degree are being made. Ms. Hansen stressed the importance of special needs to this initiative.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

Action by Commission: The motion to approve was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.